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# A HOSTILE CANAL.

CANADA'S STRATEGIC WATERWAY WHICH MENACES OUR BORDER.

Strongly Fortified Blockhouses Defend the Rideau Canal, Built by Great Britain for Use in the Event of War With Us—Its Great Value to the Dominion.

In the event of warfare between the United States and Canada the name of the quiet little manufacturing and trading town of Gananoque, upon the dominion side of the St. Lawrence River, opposite Clayton, N. Y., would almost certainly become famous at once as the scene of the first battle, and probably the next fight would happen at or near the Welland Canal, the great channel threading Canadian soil around Niagara Falls.

The importance of the second incident would be entirely contingent upon the result of the first. The primary action would occur between Canadian volunteer troops and an "American" force, which, arriving upon the frontier with plenty of field artillery to support an infantry column, over the well-equipped Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad, would leave Clayton upon a fleet of steamboats and scows, masked by the intricate groups of islands, and landing at or near Gananoque, which is unfortified, might easily avoid any temporary defenses and execute a rapid march of 20 miles over a good road to Jones' Falls, the nearest point upon the Rideau Canal. The mission of the invaders would be to destroy the important series of locks at this point and thus block the passage of gunboats, troops and munitions between Ottawa and Kingston.

If the attacking force was driven back and the integrity of the canal was maintained, the enemy would promptly run its fleet of lightdraft gunboats from Halifax or Quebec up the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers

and through this convenient side door to Kingston, where, under the guns of Fort Henry, the armament of the boats sent thither by rail, would be replaced and Lake Ontario with its one antiquated "revenue cutter" upon the American side would be subject to the pleasure of the commodore directing the British naval force. His pleasure would, of course, involve incidentally the ravaging of the south shore of the lake, including the important ports of Oswego and Rochester.

It is, indeed, quite possible that armed vessels of the enemy should proceed directly up the St. Lawrence River through the chain of locks at the several rapids and get safely by the hastily constructed forts which would range along the American shore of the river in the vicinity of Ogdensburg, where the whole width of the stream is within range, but when the Rideau Canal was built by the British Government, as long ago as 1830, at a cost of \$5,000,000, it was created distinctly and solely as a military work, giving Canada an effective key to the great lakes, or Ontario.

Whether this obscure but dangerous little canal, the very existence of which is not generally known, is really regarded by the dominion or British Government as a menace to the lake cities of the west, depends upon their faith in an ability to hold the Welland Canal open over the entire length for a considerable period after the declaration of hostilities. At any rate, an amount of care and expense is lavished in keeping up the numerous locks and in maintaining a good channel which is out of all proportion to the importance of the commerce passing through, the tollage from which never has met and evidently never can meet the annual repair bills.

where they command a view of both approaches to the locks. No one who has traversed the enchanted Rideau region as the guest of a princely steam yacht owner will find fault with that provident spirit of protection in the breast of our long-headed cousin, John Bull, which led him to create, more than seventy years ago, this lovely aqueous highway, and to maintain it so excellently to the present time.

**Felt Hat Life Preservers.** It is not generally known that when a person falls into the water a common felt hat can be made use of as a life preserver. By placing the hat upon the water, rim down, with the arm round it pressing it slightly to the breast, it will bear a man up for hours.

**DIMINISHING** Why the Armies of Europe Maintain a Minimum Standard of Five Feet.

This relation between stature and health is brought to concrete expression in the armies of Europe through a rejection of all recruits for service who fall below a certain minimum standard of height, generally about five feet. The result of this is to preclude the possibility of marriage for all the fully developed men during their three years in the barracks, while the undersized individuals, exempted from service on this account, are left free to propagate the species meanwhile. Is it not apparent that the effect of this artificial selection is to put a distinct premium upon inferiority of stature in so far as future generations are concerned? This enforced postponement of marriage for the normal man implies not merely that the children of normal families are born later in life—that would not be of great moment in itself—it means far more than this. The majority of children are more often born in the earlier half of married life, before the age of 35. Hence a postponement of matrimony means not only later children, but fewer children. Herein lies the great significance of the phenomenon for us. Standing armies tend in this respect to overload succeeding generations with inferior types of men.

**She Tames Wild Horses.** Miss Vaughan-Lewis is the hyphenated name of the woman who can boast that she is the first of her sex to adopt the profession of horse breaking. She is the daughter of a Welsh clergyman. At sixteen she had a reputation among his parishioners for her power over vicious and unmanageable animals. Then her father died and she was obliged to earn her own living. She went to Canada and soon had a number of clients, who kept her busy breaking their half-wild horses for them.

Now she has a farm near San Francisco. She can board twelve horses at a time. Three men servants and two women form her retinue. She breaks all the horses herself. By 6 o'clock every morning she is in the stables. She tames the most vicious brute and entirely without whip or spur. Her wristcare very strong, her patience inexhaustible and her will indomitable. These three qualifications, she says, are all that are needed to make a woman a success as a horse breaker.

**Mutton Tallow in Sores.** Pure mutton tallow is one of the most useful and inexpensive of medical agents. For that class of sores and wounds where a cooling, healing application is indicated its value is beyond compare. Many an obstinate sore has been healed permanently by pursuing the following simple method: Wash thoroughly, but gently, once or twice a day, with warm water and castile soap, dry with a soft cloth and cover with a coating of the tallow. This should be spread upon a piece of linen or cotton, the tallow being sufficiently thick to prevent the cloth from adhering to the wounded or diseased surface.

**An Off-Rejected Crown.** Julius Caesar, rejecting the crown of Rome, seems to be the favorite model of the modern Roumanian kings. When Roumania was declared a kingdom it was settled that the throne should descend to Prince Leopold, the eldest brother of the king then reigning. The Prince, however, voluntarily yielded his rights to the crown in favor of his son, Prince Wilhelm, the renunciation being registered in the Senate in October, 1880. Prince Wilhelm remained heir apparent for eight years, but toward the end of 1888 he formally refused to accept the crown, and his brother became heir apparent, being now Prince of Roumania.

**Electric Roads in Europe.** Recent statistics show that Germany takes the lead of all European countries in regard to the use of electric railways. She has 395 miles of such roads in operation; France has 173 miles; Italy 72 miles and England 68 miles. All of Europe combined contains a little more than 900 miles of electric railway.

# A SKATING EXPERT.

CHAMPION SWEETZEE WRITES ABOUT THE EXHILARATING SPORT.

The Excitement and Strain of Racing Produce Nervousness and Enlargement of the Heart—Advice to Athletes Upon the Way to Train for Racing on the Ice.

New York's champion ice skater, Arthur B. Sweetze, has written the following article, telling of the excitement of racing and particularly of the astonishing enlargement of his heart, due to the terrible pressure upon it, which has necessitated his retirement from future contests. He writes a warning to other skaters that they carefully study the effect on the heart of racing:

It is now a well-known fact that heart trouble is responsible for my retirement from the skating field. Many causes have produced this, nervousness being the chief one. It is my misfortune to be of a very nervous disposition, which is increased before and during competition. I have actually stood on the scratch line, waiting for the pistol with my teeth chattering and my knees shaking, simply through pure nervousness. All of this has a very bad effect on the heart.

Every athlete worries more or less about his races and further excites it. Again, my lungs are highly developed and take a great deal of strength from the heart. One with poor "wind" is very seldom affected with heart trouble. More than half of the athletes of my acquaintance admit that they have this weakness in some form. The constant nervousness, hard exercise and competition gradually wear on it and the organ becomes enlarged.

Should one continue to race, heart disease pure and simple is likely to result; while, on the contrary, if stopped in time, it is quite probable that the heart will decrease in size and assume its normal condition. In two years' competition I have knocked about five years off of my life. All the medals and silverware in existence cannot repay me for such a loss.



This enlargement with me often produces severe palpitation, which never lasts more than ten minutes. A slight dizziness will occasionally follow. Twice my heart has skipped a beat. In each case it has caused me to stumble and fall. I would urge my fellow athletes to notice carefully this vital organ.

With the proper instrument the action of the heart can be heard very distinctly. It looks like a small telephone receiver, and is placed over the heart. To this are fastened two connections, similar to those of a phonograph. Upon placing these in each ear the heart beats are plainly heard, and the sound greatly resembles that of a small suction pump. One can hear a "chik-pung," "chik-a-pung" every time the blood passes through the valves.

Invariably I am asked, "What do you think about during a race?" Of outside matters hardly anything. I may think a little of the crowd; perhaps not. If I have a party of friends there I listen for their encouragement every time I pass. Of course I think of my opponents and if possible try to catch a glimpse of their features to see how they are holding out. I study my own condition and know how much I can stand at the finish.

Now we come to the last quarter. The pace has been hot and I am tired. The applause of the crowd seems like a faraway murmur, and I can hardly hear my coacher on the side lines. The home stretch is reached and it needs one more effort. Here is the crucial test of strength and nerve. The faint hearted racer stops here and will not punish himself. Punishment it certainly is, and the face is an excellent mirror. The agony shown there is often startling, and in a great measure portrays the strain undergone.

The heart pounds like a sledgehammer, a heavy mist grows before the eyes, the ears buzz and ring like a saw-mill, the lungs are overtaxed and breathing is hard indeed, a knife seems to be in one's stomach, and you can hardly stagger along. At last the tape is reached and the will power relaxes, the principal desire being to grab at anybody or anything for support and then nature asserts herself.

**Frozen Eggs for Klondike.** A method of shipping eggs to the Klondike, which has proved successful in other directions, has been revived by a Portland man, says Ice and Refrigeration. The eggs are broken into cans, sealed up and frozen. The shipper intends to keep them in cold storage until their arrival at Dyea.

**A Stay-at-Home Husband.** One hundred and seven witnesses were summoned to appear in Common Pleas at Ravenna, O., in the case wherein Mary Ellen Rogers sued Volney Rogers for divorce on the grounds that having lived with her for forty years he never took her anywhere, not even to church.

**A Defective Exclusion Law.** It is said that the law relating to the residence of Hebrews in Siberia contains a technical error, and when rectified permission will be granted them to live there.

# DUCK FARMS

About 10,000 Pounds of Feathers Are Collected Annually.

All accounts I have read about elder ducks, says a traveler, in Good Words, say that nests are robbed of their down twice, the duck supplying it each time from her own body; the third time the drake gives his white down, and this is allowed to remain. But I was told by farmers in Iceland that now they never take the down until the little ones are hatched. It has been found that the birds thrive better and increase faster when they are allowed to live as nature meant them to do. So now the poor mothers are no longer obliged to strip themselves of all their down to refurbish their despoiled nests. Sometimes if the quantity is very great a little may be taken, but enough must be left to cover the eggs when the duck leaves her nest for food.

A writer upon Iceland, in speaking of a visit to one of the Isafjord farms, wrote: "On the coast was a wall built of large stones, just above high-water level, about three feet high and of considerable thickness at the bottom. On both sides of it alternate stones had been left out so as to form a series of square compartments for the ducks to make their nests in. Almost every compartment was occupied, and as we walked along the shore a line of ducks flew out, one after another. The house was a marvel; the earthen walls that surrounded it and the window embrasures were occupied with ducks. On the ground the house was fringed with ducks. On the turf slopes of the roof we could see ducks, and ducks sat on the scaper."

About 10,000 pounds of elderdown are gathered annually in Iceland, 7,000 being exported to foreign countries. Formerly the peasants used to receive over 21 shillings a pound, but the price has now fallen to half that amount. The peasants seldom receive money and are obliged to barter their down for merchandise furnished by the Danish merchants at the little settlements at the fjords. A pound and a half of down is enough to fill an ordinary bed-puff. These very comfortable articles are found in the guest room of every Iceland farm, however poor and small it may be. After a long hard day in the saddle the traveler longs for warmth and shelter. These little guest rooms have never had a fire in them and built, as they are, on the ground there is a dreadful chill in them. Once tucked away in bed, however, and well covered with the downpuff, a delightful sense of comfort follows, and tired bones lose their pains and stiffness.

**On His Native Nerve.** "That was a strange experience," admitted the traveling man when some one had recalled the incident to him. "I'll tell you on the level that it converted me to the theory that there is a destiny that shapes our end and that the fellow who is willing to drift is not such a chump after all."

"As the boys say, I was on my uppers. No one questioned my ability on the road. I could sell goods to men who had no real use for them, and you'll admit that to be the supreme test of a drummer. If I had one forte above another, it was that of selling stoves. I could get rid of a hard coal burner in a soft coal district and I could place a consignment of wood stoves in the middle of a prairie district."

"One morning I waked up in the modern Troy of New York, without a cent and without a job. To most men the situation would have been as cold as a polar expedition, but, as intimated, I'm a fatalist. After jollying the bartender for a patriotic cocktail and the barber for a shave, I went to the nearest stove factory. The clock struck 12 just as I entered the place. Before the handsome young man at the desk could say a word I had told him that I was on time. I think the remark was the inspiration of an extremity."

"We'll not stop to discuss terms at this time," he said. "You have an hour in which to catch a train. Here's your expense money. It is a new route, but it will serve to try you out." I was knocked daffy, but I took the money, caught the train and sold stoves right and left. In a week I had a letter from the house asking who in the world I was and where I came from. The other fellow, for whom I was mistaken, had shown up and claimed the job. But they told me to fire away, and they raised my salary. I'm with 'em yet."

**Reflections of a Bachelor.** Every man is a bitter pessimist when he has a bill.

The average woman thinks there will be no marrying in heaven because there won't be any bachelors there. You can generally tell how curious a girl knows by whether she acts curious about what a man carries in his hip pocket.

Dante made one mistake. He ought to have saved the deepest, hottest oven for the man that writes the beginner's cook books.

When a woman has on a new hat whenever a man looks at her she thinks he is admiring it. Whenever a woman looks at her she wonders if she has forgotten to take off the price tag.

**The Difference.** Some men prefer publicity to profit. The artist who engraved that admirable counterfeit of the \$100 silver certificate, which has just been called in does not. The promptness with which he discovered will have an important bearing upon the question of Chief of the Secret Service Hazen's retention in his office.

**Insuring Frozen Meat.** Three of the largest New South Wales meat freezing and handling companies have formed an association to endeavor to localize and prevent damage to shipments of frozen meat, which damage has assumed most serious proportions during the last two years. The insurance companies are at present snarling under continuous and heavy claims which have resulted in raising their premiums about 20 per cent. The association seeks to attain its end by a thorough inspection of the refrigeration machinery on board the steamers, the condition of the meat and the temperatures of the hold.

# MARK A. HANNA.

INTERESTING SKETCH OF THE OHIO SENATOR.

His Friends and Foes—His Large and Varied Business Interests—The Largest Employer of Labor in the Central West—A Weekly Pay Roll of 10,000 Men.

Senator Mark A. Hanna, of Ohio, has some very implacable enemies in the Legislature of that State, and not content with their assault on his political ambitions they are now burying their knives in his business interests. In the House all sorts of bills leveled at corporations have been introduced. Most of these measures are regarded as vicious thrusts at the Cleveland magnate, whose financial investments are varied.

An amendment to the Nichols law, which taxes the earnings of express, telegraph, telephone and other companies, was introduced so as to include street railways, electric light and power equipment, artificial and natural gas, sleeping car and all other corporations. This is esteemed by lobby experts as savage an assault as could be directed against Senator Hanna. A bill was also introduced to repeal the law for a new State House. This was regarded as returning the compliment to the Columbus people who have expressed their disapprobation of the course of Governor Bushnell in opposing Mr. Hanna.



Senator Hanna's engagement with the Ohio Legislature does not seem to have interfered with the consummation of the most sensational business deal that the new year has witnessed. A few days ago final negotiations were entered into between the Youghiogheny Gas Coal Company, of which the Republican National Chairman is the principal stockholder, and Capt. S. S. Brown, by which the latter transferred almost 500 acres of land adjoining the Youghiogheny's Manawa plant to that concern.

A few weeks ago the Youghiogheny Gas Coal Company acquired about 300 acres of coal land from Horner & Roberts, and at the same time Capt. Brown purchased the land adjoining the Manawa property. Capt. Brown transferred his property to the Youghiogheny Company, and this concern paid for the land so acquired by giving Captain Brown a deed on the Horner & Roberts purchase. About \$75,000 was involved.

The Youghiogheny Company expects to make its daily output the greatest in the Pittsburgh district. Already it is producing 1,500 tons of coal a day, and the work of developing the new acquisition is to be commenced at once. Entries have been driven, and before many weeks have gone by the Youghiogheny concern expects to be producing coal from the new territory. All the coal operators of the Pittsburgh district are looking for coal lands in order to get a more secure foothold in the lake markets. Senator Hanna is leading the procession in the rush for New territory.

It is now believed that President McKinley's warmest political friend is the largest employer of labor in the Central West. He operates street railways, roundries, coal and iron mines and a vast flotilla of lake shipping and it is no exaggeration to say that ten thousand men are on his weekly pay roll.

**Special Suits for Klondike Troops.** The quartermaster general's department has selected a special suit for the troops selected for the Klondike relief expeditions. It consists of a sheepskin coat and trousers, both of which are made of the entire hide, with the pelt on the inside. Both coat and trousers are adjustable by means of gathering strings and leather lacing. The coat is fitted with a hood and the trousers come slightly below the knee. German socks will be worn over the customary stockings. The arctic over-shoes at present used by troops in the colder latitudes will form a part of the costume.

**Kindness of White House Officials.** More than one poor fireside of Western Washington has been made warm and comfortable during the thoughtfulness of White House officials. Orders were given to clear out the dead timber of the grounds about the Executive Mansion. Ordinarily the trunks of elms and oaks that were majestic in the times of Lincoln and Jackson went to the public dump. But this year those engaged in carting off the timber were instructed to distribute it among the tenants of the poor section of the city, and this was done.

The florists of Washington are making an earnest effort to secure the passage of a resolution by congress prohibiting the free distribution of officials of the government of plants cut flowers, foliage, etc.

**The Use of Disinfectants.** The constant burdening of the air of a house in which people are living with all manner of disinfectants, is not the thing to do. If a patient is suffering from a malarious disease he should, if possible, be placed in a room which may be shut off from the rest of the house, and be given plenty of fresh air; while even then the apartment and everything connected with it should be kept as fresh and sweet as possible. It is never necessary to keep the sick room in such a condition that a well person can scarcely breathe the atmosphere.